

Translation of article in 10 June 1984 issue of DIE WELT AM

A leading official of the CIA of many years' standing examines the future of the American intelligence service.

THE HISTORIC CHANCE OF WILLIAM J. CASEY

For thirty-five years the author of the following article was a member of the U.S. intelligence service. He last held leading positions in Asia (Vietnam until 1975), Latin America and Europe. Currently he advises private enterprises and the U.S. Government.

By Tom Polgar

Washington.

The mining of Nicaraguan harbors has moved the covert operations of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) again into the focal point of public attention.

Covert operations are nothing new in history, in fact they are as old as history. The current activities in Central America are, however, unusual that is in the sense that secret military actions against sovereign nations are being pursued as part of national policy and admitted to by high-ranking representatives of the U.S. Government.

In an interview with DIE WELT AM SONNTAG (see issue of 6 May 1984) Jeane Kirkpatrick, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, stated very openly that the U.S. was using covert activities to support measures against the government of Nicaragua. This was done to avoid a legislative conflict which could result were the president to request a declaration of war.

President Reagan's security adviser, Robert McFarlane, declared on 13 May 1984 in a television interview that covert actions were increasingly necessary to afford the United States an alternative to war or doing nothing. In other words, a third option.